



# POLICE COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2021 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street  
Manchester, NH 03103

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at the Manchester Police Department Community Room on January 5, 2022, at 9:00am, attended by:

**Commissioners** John Cronin, Eva Castillo, Charlie Sherman (via Zoom), Manny Content (via Zoom) and John Mercier  
**Police Department Staff** Chief Aldenberg, Assistant Chief Steven Mangone, Captain Christopher Goodnow, Captain Peter Marr, Captain Shawn McCabe, Captain Brandon Murphy, Lieutenant Matthew Barter, Lieutenant Kenneth Loui, Heather Hamel (PIO), and Diane Kingsbury (Admin. Assist.)

**Others attending the Public Session:** Manchester business owner and blogger Jeff Hastings, June Trisciani (Alderman At-Large)

### 1. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN OPENING COMMENTS

- Commissioner John Cronin opened the meeting at 8:56am, welcoming all those present.

### 2. NOTICES POSTED / APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Commission confirmed with Diane Kingsbury that the notices had been posted at the City Library as well as on the MPD's website homepage, event calendar, and via social media.
- Commissioners present unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the 12/1/21 meeting.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Cronin explained that each Manchester resident wishing to speak shall state his/her name and address, each will have only one opportunity to speak, and will be limited to three minutes in which to address comments on a particular subject to the Commission.

*No public comments*

### 4. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

#### Special Enforcement Division – Captain Murphy:

- Upcoming SWAT training on 1/11 focusing on less lethal and chemical certifications. Additional training on 1/27 covering topics TBD at this time as well as Use of Force Summit team updates/
- The Special Investigations Unit continues efforts to disrupt the possession and sale of illegal drugs in the City of Manchester. Currently, the division is engaged in several investigations with state and federal partners. During the month of December, the Special Investigations Unit disrupted a large scale cocaine trafficking network responsible for the distribution of cocaine in the City of Manchester.
- The Anti-Crime Unit continues efforts to disrupt illegal possession of firearms and investigate those individuals associated with gun related violence. The unit has several active investigations with state and local partners and continues to make arrests associated with gun violence and other related violent crimes.
- The Street Crime Unit continues to address the street level possession and distribution of illegal drugs as well as investigate numerous problem locations reported by the public. The officer selected for the Substance Abuse Reduction Grant is performing exceptionally.

#### Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Commissioner Sherman asked if SED crime tends to increase around the holidays and was advised by Captain Murphy that from his observation it remains consistent and the time of year has little impact. However, for exact numbers we would have to consult our Crime Analyst.

#### Legal and Professional Standards Division – Captain Marr

- In 2021 the Training Unit coordinated 16 complete 40-hour training weeks from February through November, providing the following training to officers: Patrol Tactics, Firearm Qualifications, Taser Recertifications, Cultural Competency and Diversity, De-Escalation, Officer Wellness and Defensive Tactics. Manchester Police is currently the only department in New Hampshire to provide this level of annual training.
- The Training Unit also provided over 850 hours of in-house training and conducted 4 full in-house academies (1 for certified officers and 3 for a combination of certified and non-certified officers).
- In 2021 the Sex Offender Compliance Unit completed 2,265 sex offender registrations, investigated approximately 110 offenders and completed 48 warrants.

#### Community Affairs Division – Captain Goodnow:

- No pending events in the next 30 days.
- Traffic Investigators working on several past crashes but no new serious PI/fatal crashes this month.

- Community Policing and Traffic assisting NH State Police with the NH House Session being hosted at the Doubletree Hotel.
- Community Policing working extensively with homeless Coordinator Schonna Green to address problems.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Cronin inquired on the status of the homeless situation and Captain Goodnow advised that they continue to provide shelter information to the homeless population but, historically, they do not take advantage of housing provided to them. Chief Aldenberg added that they have weekly meetings with Schonna Green to keep tabs on the situation making sure appropriate resources are provided and that MPD personnel are being allocated accordingly.
- Manchester business owner and blogger, Jeff Hastings, inquired if the bus terminal is privately owned or city owned and was advised by Captain Goodnow that it is city owned and that it is a frequent problem area that is continuously monitored and addressed.

#### **Patrol Division – Captain McCabe**

- Officer Hennessy has graduated from the Boston K9 Academy and is assigned to the midnight shift. He is scheduled to attend the 12-week EOD school starting on 1/24.
- In the month of December, K9 teams were deployed 15 times for various calls for service.
- Officer Daigneault is scheduled to attend Narcotics Detection School with K9 Oakley in early January. It is dependent on the outcome of his follow up appointment related to an ACL injury.
- Patrol numbers, on paper, currently stand at 101 assigned. However, with long term military deployments, special assignments and movement into divisions as well as injury and illness, Patrol currently has 94 officers divided into the three shifts. These numbers have increased since last month when we were down to 88 working officers.
- The one remaining officer on FTO from the 185<sup>th</sup> class has finished his training and is now working on his own.
- There are currently 4 certified officers on FTO who have approximately two weeks left before they start on solo status.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Sherman asked how many officers are on military deployment and was advised that approximately 6 officers are currently deployed with more deployments to come in the spring of 2022.
- Commissioner Sherman asked if Reserve Officers are used for more than just traffic control at parades. He was advised by Captain McCabe that although Reserve Officers cannot be used to respond to Calls for Service, they are used for a variety of other jobs including the service of subpoenas.

#### **Investigative Division – Lieutenant Loui (for Captain Leighton):**

- Timothy Johnson, the alleged shooter in the homicide of Jean Lascelle at 351 Chestnut Street on 2/13/21, is scheduled to be extradited back to New Hampshire from Massachusetts by the end of the month. Johnson did not waive extradition with regard to murder charge, so MPD worked with the NH AGO to obtain a Governor's Warrant.
- Cyber Crime and Evidence Units are collaborating with Info Systems to explore more efficient ways to archive and manage digital evidence. They have already met with several vendors of proposed DEMS (Digital Evidence Management Systems) and are still working on finding a cost effective solution to store and share digital evidence to reduce our reliance on CD's DVD's and thumb drives for these purposes.
- Manchester Police has cultivated a strong partnership with Secret Service, which has resulted in its inclusion in the New England Cyber Fraud Task Force, as well as significant training opportunities at the Secret Service's National Computer Forensic Institute (NCFI) in Hoover, AL. In Q1 of 2022 alone, the training slated to be provided to Manchester Police by the Secret Service is valued at nearly \$100,000. Manchester Police personnel return from this training with the latest in computer forensic hardware and software, federally-funded and free of charge to Manchester Police. Additionally, the Secret Service even covers all associated travel expenses.

#### **5. COMMENTS FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF MANGONE**

- 2021 was a good year for training and recruitment – thanks to Captain Marr and the Training Unit. Of the 235 entry level police officer applicants, 27 non-certified officers were hired. Of the 21 certified officer applicants, 8 certified officers were hired. Out of those 35 certified and non-certified officers, 29 are still employed with Manchester Police (20% attrition – due to officers lost during the in-house and state academies)
- The Training Unit implemented a new online 'rolling' testing model beginning in August 2021. Since this model began, we have had the following numbers: 120 online tests taken (115 passed), 72 PT tests given (50 passed), 10 non-certified officers hired.

## **6. COMMENTS FROM CHIEF ALDENBERG**

- We have been dealing with COVID and have had some cases in the building but it has not impacted us operationally. We are back to wearing masks in the building.
- Going forward we will be working on publishing an annual report that shows updated and relevant information on where the department is and will include information such as the number of guns seized and taken off the street, other crime statistics, divisional recaps, etc. We are working on getting a grant to enhance the capturing and reporting of data to assist with this. We are hoping to present this to the BMA in mid-February and once approved will distribute to the entire community.
- Adam Montgomery has been arrested and is currently in Manchester Police custody and will be arraigned later today. This is still a very active investigation and the search for Harmony continues.
- The Chief recently returned from the FBI National Academy. He shared that there were 135 agencies represented at the academy. Among many other things he took away from the experience, he learned that recruitment and retention seems to be an ongoing issue for a lot of other agencies and not just in Manchester. Also, it appears that in comparison to other agencies, the Manchester Police Department is on the more proactive end of the spectrum, although there is always room for improvement.

### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Content was on board with the Chief's idea of full transparency with the public and that he would like to see a focus on continued training, specifically for de-escalation and that positive communications get out to the community to highlight that. Chief Aldenberg advised that is why we are focusing efforts on the Annual Report to get all the information out to the public and to give them a document to look at and reference. As it relates to de-escalation, through federal funds an APEX Simulator has been purchased which will hopefully be in use within the next 30 days. Manchester will be the only police department in the state to have this. It is a virtual training device which will be loaded with scenarios for use by Manchester Police officers as well as other outside agencies.

## **7. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

### **8. TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**

- Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

### **9. END OF PUBLIC SESSION**

- The Public Session ended at 9:25 a.m.